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The Ostrich Farm



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Trump pleads not guilty to 34 charges; admonished by judge

Associated Press
NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump conspired to illegally influence the 2016 election through a series of hush money payments designed to stifle claims that could be harmful to his candidacy, prosecutors said Tuesday in unsealing a historic 34-count felony indictment against the former president. The payments, said Assistant District Attorney Christopher Conroy, were part of "an unlawful plan to identify and suppress negative information that could have undermined his campaign for president." Trump, stone-faced and silent as he entered and exited the Manhattan courtroom, said "not guilty" in a firm voice while facing a judge who warned him to refrain from rhetoric that could inflame or cause civil unrest. The next court date is December 4, though it is not clear if he will be required to appear.



Former President Donald Trump sits at the defense table with his legal team in a Manhattan court, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

Continued on Page 2

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SETAR

Trump pleads not guilty to 34 charges; admonished by judge

Continued from Front

The broad contours of the case have long been known, but indictment contains new details about a scheme that prosecutors say involved payoffs to two women, including a porn star, who said they had extramarital sexual encounters with him years earlier, as well as to a Trump Tower doorman who claimed to have a story about a child he alleged the former president had out of of wedlock.

The arraignment, though largely procedural in nature, amounts to a remarkable reckoning for Trump after years of investigations into his personal, business and political dealings. The case is unfolding against the backdrop not only of his third campaign for the White House but also against other investigations in Washington and Atlanta that might yet produce even more charges.

Trump, his lips pursed in apparent anger, entered the courtroom shortly before 2:30 p.m. He left court



Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg speaks at a press conference after the arraignment of former president Donald Trump in New York on Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Associated Press

about an hour later, also without commenting. All told, the typically verbose Trump spoke only about 10 words during the entire proceeding.

Before the arraignment, he narrated his feelings in real time, describing the experience as "SURREAL" as he traveled from Trump Tower to lower Manhattan to face a judge.

The day's schedule, with its striking blend of legal and political events, represents the new split-screen reality for Trump as he submits to

the dour demands of the American criminal justice system while projecting an aura of defiance and victimhood at celebratory campaign events.

Wearing his signature dark suit and red tie, Trump turned and waved to crowds outside the building before heading inside to be fingerprinted and processed. He arrived at court in an eight-car motorcade from Trump Tower, communicating in real time his anger at the process.

"Heading to Lower Man-

hattan, the Courthouse," he posted on his Truth Social platform. "Seems so SURREAL — WOW, they are going to ARREST ME. Can't believe this is happening in America. MAGA!"

Afterward, Trump lawyer Todd Blanche told reporters that it was a "sad day for the country."

"You don't expect this to happen to somebody who was president of the United States," he said.

Trump, who was impeached twice by the U.S. House but was never convicted in the U.S. Senate, is the first former president to face criminal charges. The nation's 45th commander in chief was escorted from Trump Tower to the courthouse by the Secret Service.

"He is strong and ready to go," Trump lawyer Joe Tacopina told The Associated Press. Earlier, Tacopina said in a TV interview that the former president wouldn't plead guilty to lesser charges, even if it might resolve the case. He also said he didn't think the case would make it to a jury.

New York police said they were ready for large protests by Trump supporters, who share the Republican former president's belief that the New York grand jury indictment and three additional pending investigations are politically motivated and intended to weaken his bid to retake the White House in 2024. Journalists often outnumbered protesters, though. Trump, a former reality TV star, has been hyping that narrative to his political advantage, saying he raised more than \$8 million in the days since the indictment on claims of a "witch hunt." His campaign released a fundraising request titled "My last email before arrest" and he has repeatedly assailed Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, egged on supporters to protest and claimed without evidence that the judge presiding over the case "hates me" — something his own lawyer has said is not true.

Trump was scheduled to

return to his Palm Beach, Florida, home, Mar-a-Lago, on Tuesday evening to give remarks. At least 500 prominent supporters have been invited, with some of the most pro-Trump congressional Republicans expected to attend.

A conviction would not prevent Trump from running for or winning the presidency in 2024.

The investigation is scrutinizing six-figure payments made to porn actor Stormy Daniels and former Playboy model Karen McDougal. Both say they had sexual encounters with the married Trump years before he got into politics. Trump denies having sexual liaisons with either woman and has denied any wrongdoing involving payments.

The arraignment unfolded against the backdrop of heavy security in New York, coming more than two years after Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol in a failed bid to halt the congressional certification of Democrat Joe Biden's win.

Trump was defiant ahead of his arraignment. He used his social media network to complain that he was going to court in a heavily Democratic area, declaring, "KANGAROO COURT" and "THIS IS NOT WHAT AMERICA WAS SUPPOSED TO BE!" He and his campaign have repeatedly assailed Bragg and even trained scrutiny on members of Bragg's family.

Despite that, the scenes around Trump Tower and the courthouse where Trump will stand before a judge did not feature major unrest. Police tried to keep apart protesters supporting the former president and those opposing him by confining them to separate sides of a park near the courthouse using metal barricades.

Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, one of Trump's staunchest supporters in Congress, staged a brief rally at the park, but the scene was so chaotic that it was hard to hear her over the crush of reporters and protesters. □

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New IRS leader promises faster, easier tax filing process

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — New IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel delivered a tax-season pledge Tuesday that the agency will use an \$80 billion infusion of cash to become faster, more tech-savvy and provide “real-world improvements” to taxpayers.

Werfel, as he was ceremonially sworn in on Tuesday, said he would release a Strategic Operating Plan later this week laying out how the agency will use the money approved in last year’s Inflation Reduction Act

“This is our moment in history to transform the IRS,” said Werfel, who began working at the agency in mid-March. “We have a great deal of work ahead of us to ensure a more modern and high-performing IRS that provides world-class services to taxpayers,” he said. Some of the planned improvements include hiring more people to end long call wait times, additional locations for IRS staff to provide in-person service and expanded online accounts, so taxpayers and professionals will be able to address tax issues through electronic means, instead of paper mail.

President Joe Biden nominated Werfel to steer the IRS as it receives the new funding, which has come with much political consternation. Republicans have suggested without evidence that the agency would use the new money to hire an army of tax agents with weapons. They also say the IRS would increase audits on middle-class taxpayers.

Werfel navigated some



Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen congratulates new IRS commissioner Danny Werfel after the swearing-in at the IRS headquarters in Washington, Tuesday, April 4, 2023.

Associated Press

of that controversy during his February confirmation hearing.

He pledged before senators not to expand tax audits on businesses and households making less than \$400,000 per year, as he faced rounds of questions before the Senate Finance Committee on how he would spend the agency’s big new infusion of money.

He drew praise for being willing to leave a private consulting job to take on the top job at the troubled agency.

Werfel formerly led Boston Consulting Group’s global public sector practice and has previously served as an acting IRS commissioner. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, who presided over Werfel’s swearing in, said in a speech to IRS and Treasury employees that he will be tasked with “dramatically improving taxpayer service and ensuring that large corporations and the wealthy pay the taxes they owe.”

“The IRS will invest in data and analytics to help the agency audit large corporations, high earners, and complex partnerships that have not paid their full bill,” Yellen said. “The technology will be complemented by hiring more top talent — including accountants and

attorneys.”

While the administration has showcased the boosting employee ranks with 5,000 new workers and investments in new technology, a March Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration report on the 2022 tax season states that the “ongoing backlogs of tax returns and other account work continued to challenge the IRS during the 2022 Filing Season.”

In a March 13 letter to employees, Werfel said “I returned to government to work with you and focus on this tremendous opportunity we have with the resources available under the Inflation Reduction Act.” □

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NOAA: N.J. wind farm may 'adversely affect,' not kill whales

By **WAYNE PARRY**
Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) —

New Jersey's first offshore wind farm may "adversely affect" whales and other marine mammals, but its construction, operation and eventual dismantling will not seriously harm or kill them, a federal scientific agency said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration issued a report Tuesday evaluating an analysis by the U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management of the Ocean Wind I project to be built off the southern New Jersey coast.

NOAA's final biological opinion examined BOEM's research, and took into account "the best scientific and commercial data available."

NOAA determined the project by Danish wind power company Orsted "is likely to adversely affect, but is not likely to jeopardize, the continued existence of any species" of endangered whales, sea turtles and other animals. Nor is it likely to "destroy or adversely modify any designated critical



The sun sets behind a land-based wind farm in Atlantic City, N.J. on Feb. 10, 2022.

Associated Press

habitat."

The report comes as opposition to offshore wind projects on the U.S. East Coast is growing, fueled by a thus-far unproven narrative that ocean floor preparation work for offshore wind farms is hurting or killing whales. Thirty-one have

washed ashore on the East Coast since Dec. 1, according to NOAA.

NOAA and other agencies have said many of the dead whales appear to have been struck by ships or entangled in fishing gear, emphasizing there is no evidence linking off-

shore wind production and whale deaths.

Yet that has not convinced some people, including some federal and state officials who want a pause or permanent halt to offshore wind projects while the impact of wind farm site preparation can be more

closely examined.

U.S. Reps. Jeff Van Drew and Christopher Smith, both New Jersey Republicans, have introduced legislation in Congress to mandate such a pause, and have promised additional investigatory hearings into the offshore wind industry. Complicating matters is a joint study released last week by NOAA, BOEM and the commercial fishing industry that listed several known adverse impacts of wind farms on marine life, including noise, vibration, electromagnetic fields and heat transfer that could alter the marine environment.

Ocean Wind 1 is the first offshore wind project approved by New Jersey officials. It will consist of 98 turbines about 15 miles (25 kilometers) off the coast of Atlantic City and Ocean City.

The project will generate more than 1,100 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about a half million homes each year. Orsted hopes to have it up and running by the end of 2024. □

Former top aide to Maryland governor dead after manhunt

By **SARAH BRUMFIELD and LEA SKENE**

Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A one-time chief of staff for former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan died Monday after being

shot when FBI agents confronted him in a manhunt launched when he failed to show up for trial on corruption charges, his lawyer said.

Attorney Joseph Murtha

said the FBI confirmed Roy McGrath's death to him. He added that it was not immediately clear if McGrath's wound was self-inflicted or came during an exchange of gunfire with agents.

William Brennan, an attorney for McGrath's wife, Laura Bruner, also confirmed the death and said she was "absolutely distraught." According to an earlier email from FBI Supervisory Special Agent Shayne Buchwald in Maryland, McGrath was wounded during "an agent-involved shooting" about 6:30 p.m. in a commercial area on the southwestern outskirts of Knoxville, Tennessee. Buchwald said McGrath was taken to a hospital but did not elaborate.

Further details, including

how McGrath was wounded and what led up to it, were not immediately released. The shooting was under investigation.

"The FBI takes all shooting incidents involving our agents or task force members seriously," said Buchwald, who declined to confirm that McGrath had died. McGrath, 53, was declared a wanted fugitive after his disappearance, and the FBI said he was considered an international flight risk. In a statement, Hogan said he and his wife, Yumi, "are deeply saddened by this tragic situation. We are praying for Mr. McGrath's family and loved ones."

Murtha called the death "a tragic ending to the past three weeks of uncertainty" and said his client always maintained his innocence.

After McGrath failed to appear at Baltimore's federal courthouse on March 13, Murtha said he believed McGrath, who had moved to Naples, Florida, was planning to fly to Maryland the night before. Instead of beginning jury selection, a judge issued an arrest warrant and dismissed prospective jurors.

McGrath was indicted in 2021 on accusations that he fraudulently secured a \$233,648 severance payment, equal to one year of salary as the head of Maryland Environmental Service, by falsely telling the agency's board the governor had approved it. He was also accused of fraud and embezzlement connected to roughly \$170,000 in expenses. McGrath pleaded not guilty. □



Roy McGrath, chief executive officer of the Maryland Environmental Service, speaks during a news conference at the State House in Annapolis, Md., on April 15, 2020.

Associated Press

Mexico complains to China about U.S. pressure over fentanyl

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president asked his Chinese counterpart for help Tuesday in halting chemicals from China used by Mexican drug dealers to illegally produce fentanyl, while also complaining of "rude" U.S. pressure to curb the drug trade.

President Andrés Manuel López Obrador has previously said that fentanyl is America's problem and is caused by "a lack of hugs" in U.S. families. On Tuesday he doubled down on those themes, but went further, venting in a letter to Chinese President Xi Jinping about "rude threats" from U.S. legislators over the drug trade. López Obrador complained about calls in the United States to designate Mexican drug gangs as terrorist organizations. Some Republicans have said they favor using the U.S. military to crack down on the Mexican cartels.

"Unjustly, they are blaming us for problems that in large measure have to do with their loss of values, their welfare crisis," López Obrador wrote to Xi in the letter published Tuesday. "These positions are in themselves a lack of respect and a



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador speaks at the National Palace in Mexico City, Jan. 10, 2023.

threat to our sovereignty, and moreover they are based on an absurd, manipulative, propagandistic and demagogic attitude." Only after several paragraphs of venting, López Obrador brings up China's exports of fentanyl precursors, and asked him to help stop shipments of chemicals that Mexican cartels import from China.

"I write to you, President

Xi Jinping, not to ask your help on these rude threats, but to ask you for humanitarian reasons to help us by controlling the shipments of fentanyl," the Mexican president wrote.

China has taken some steps to limit fentanyl exports, but mislabeled or harder-to-detect precursor chemicals continue to pour out of Chinese factories.

It was not immediately

clear if Xi had received the letter or if he had responded to it. López Obrador has a history of writing confrontational letters to world leaders without getting a response.

López Obrador has angrily denied that fentanyl is produced in Mexico. However, his own administration has acknowledged finding dozens of labs where it is produced, mainly in the

northern state of Sinaloa. Most illegal fentanyl is pressed by Mexican cartels into counterfeit pills made to look like other medications like Xanax, oxycodone or Percocet, or mixed into other drugs, including heroin and cocaine. Many people who die of overdoses in the United States do not know they are taking fentanyl.

Over the last week, López Obrador has fixated on press reports stating that the National Basketball Association had offered in talks with the players' union to stop testing or penalizing players for using marijuana. The Mexican president took that as evidence of U.S. social and moral decay, even though Mexico has legalized the growing of marijuana for personal and medical use.

"We are seeing the the basketball league has authorized players to smoke marijuana," López Obrador said. "How can that be? Imagine, in sports! It shouldn't be allowed anywhere." López Obrador doubled down on his advice to strengthen family values in the United States on Tuesday. □

Associated Press

Train derailment near The Hague kills 1, injures several

By **PETER DEJONG** and **MIKE CORDER**

Associated Press

VOORSCHOTEN, Netherlands (AP) —

A passenger train slammed into a construction crane and derailed near The Hague in the early hours of Tuesday, sending two carriages into a field next to the tracks. One person died and 19 were hospitalized, Dutch emergency services said. Police opened an investigation to establish if any crime was committed. Another independent probe was opened into the cause of the crash.

Television images showed people using temporary bridges and ladders to cross a narrow drainage

canal running alongside the rails to reach the stricken train in the darkness. Many windows in the train carriages were broken. It was not clear if that happened during the accident or as passengers attempted to escape.

Two of the bright yellow and blue train carriages came to rest perpendicular to the tracks across the small canal and partially in a field.

What appeared to be the front of the train was badly damaged. Other parts of the train were partially derailed.

Video footage from inside the train in the immediate aftermath of the crash showed chaotic scenes as

passengers tried to get out of the wreckage in darkness.

Dutch King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima also expressed their sympathy in a tweet, and Willem-Alexander visited the site late Tuesday morning.

The four-carriage passenger train was carrying about 50 passengers at the time of the crash.

John Voppen, CEO of the rail network company Pro Rail, said that the passenger train and a freight train both hit a crane that was being used to carry out maintenance work. He said the crane was on tracks that were not being used by train traffic and it is not clear how the trains collided



At least one person died and some 30 passengers were injured in the early hours when a train partially derailed, in Voorschoten, near The Hague, Tuesday April 4, 2023, sending at least one carriage into a field next to the tracks.

Associated Press

ed with the crane. "We don't understand how this could have happened," he told reporters at a news conference.

The identity of the person killed in the accident was not immediately released.

But Dutch media reported that the person was part of a maintenance team from construction company BAM working on the railway. The company did not immediately return a call seeking confirmation. □

Israel holding over 1,000 without charge, most since 2003

By ISABEL DEBRE
Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is holding over 1,000 Palestinian detainees without charge or trial, the highest number since 2003, an Israeli human rights group said Tuesday.

Israel says the controversial tactic, known as administrative detention, helps authorities thwart attacks and hold dangerous militants without divulging incriminating material for security reasons. Palestinians and rights groups say the system is widely abused and denies due process, with the secret nature of the evidence making it impossible for administrative detainees or their lawyers to mount a defense.

HaMoked, an Israeli rights group that regularly gathers figures from prison authorities, said that as of April, there were 1,016 detainees held in administrative detention. Nearly all of them are Palestinians detained under military law, as administrative detention is very rarely used against Jews. Four Israeli Jews are currently being held without charge.

"There is no sense of when the nightmare will end,"



Palestinians wave flags during a rally marking the 47th anniversary of Land Day, along the border fence with Israel, east of Gaza City, Thursday, March 30, 2023.

Associated Press

said 48-year-old Manal Abu Bakr in Dheisheh, a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Bethlehem. Her 28-year-old son Mohammed lost his four college years to administrative detention. Her husband, Nidal, a journalist and radio presenter, remains in custody. He has spent 17 years behind bars in the past three decades, more than half of it without charge, according to a prisoner's

rights group, the Palestinian Prisoners' Club.

The hearing on the renewal of his detention is set for September. "I'm exhausted," Manal said. "It's hard even to hope."

HaMoked says 2,416 Palestinians are serving sentences after being convicted in Israeli military courts. An additional 1,409 detainees are being held for questioning, have been charged and are awaiting trial, or are

currently being tried.

Among the 76 Palestinians incarcerated in the last month, 49 are administrative detainees. Administrative detention orders can be issued for a maximum of six months, but can be renewed indefinitely.

"The numbers are shocking," said Jessica Montell, the director of HaMoked. "There are no restraints on the use of what should be a rare exception. It's just get-

ting easier and easier for them to hold people with no charge or trial."

A widespread military crackdown on Palestinian militants in the occupied West Bank has helped fuel the sharp rise in administrative detentions.

Israel's campaign of raids into Palestinian cities and towns following a string of deadly Palestinian attacks last year led to the arrest of over 2,400 Palestinians since March 2022, according to the Israeli military. Israel's Shin Bet security service did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the latest administrative detention figures.

Israel describes the ramped-up raids as a counterterrorism effort to prevent further attacks. Palestinian residents and critics say the operation only further stokes the cycle of bloodshed, as the incursions ignite violent protests and firefights with Palestinian militants.

Nearly 90 Palestinians in the West Bank have been killed by Israeli fire this year, according to an Associated Press tally. Palestinian attacks against Israelis have killed 15 people in the same period. □

Jacinda Ardern to begin new role combating online extremism

By NICK PERRY
Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Jacinda Ardern, who stepped down as New Zealand's prime minister in January, will begin an unpaid role this month combating online extremism.

New Zealand Prime Minister Chris Hipkins, who took over as leader from Ardern, announced Tuesday he'd appointed Ardern as Special Envoy for the Christchurch Call. Hipkins said Ardern would begin the part-time role this month, right after she leaves Parliament and that she'd declined to accept any pay.

He said the role would be reviewed at the end of the year.

Ardern launched the

Christchurch Call with French President Emmanuel Macron in 2019, two months after a white supremacist gunman killed

51 people at two mosques in the New Zealand city of Christchurch. The gunman livestreamed the slaughter for 17 minutes on Face-

book before the video was taken down.

Christchurch Call's goal is to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

More than 50 countries have since signed up to the Christchurch Call, including the United States, Britain, Germany and South Korea. Tech companies to sign up include Facebook parent company Meta, Amazon, Google, Microsoft, YouTube, Zoom and Twitter.

The group says it has had success developing new online safety systems and is studying the implications of fast-rising technologies such as artificial intelligence.

"The Christchurch Call is a foreign policy priority for the

government and Jacinda Ardern is uniquely placed to keep pushing forward with the goal of eliminating violent extremist content online," Hipkins said.

He said Ardern would report directly to him.

Although she stepped down as prime minister in January, Ardern remained a lawmaker until April to avoid triggering a special election ahead of the nation's general elections in October. She is due to deliver her final valedictory speech to Parliament on Wednesday.

Ardern also announced she was joining the board of trustees for The Earthshot Prize, an environmental charity started by Britain's Prince William in 2020. □



New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern speaks during a joint press conference with Australia's Prime Minister Anthony Albanese in Sydney, Australia, July 8, 2022.

Associated Press

Aruba Tourism Authority honor loyal visitors at the Marriott's Aruba Surf Club

The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize Goodwill Ambassadors of Aruba. These Ambassadors were respectively honored with certificates acknowledging their years of visits, loyalty, and love to the island of Aruba.

The honor certification is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation and to say "Masha Danki" to guests whom have visited Aruba 10, 20, or 35 years or more consecutively.

The three honoring levels are as follows:

- Distinguished Visitor (10>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Goodwill Ambassador (20>years consecutively visiting Aruba)
- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

(35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honorees were:

Goodwill Ambassadors
Mrs. Jessie Baginski from Ohio, United States. Mrs. Baginski has been coming to the island for 20 years consecutively.

Mr. Dennis & Mrs. Caroline Kelly from Maryland, United States. Mr. & Mrs. Kelly have been coming to the island for 30 years consecutively.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Marriott's Aruba Surf Club bestowed the Ambassador certification to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-



away-from-home.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mrs. Baginski were:

- Aruba's nice sandy beaches – Love Boca Catalina Beach
- The Marriott and adjacent properties – Easy to walk along the beaches
- Aruba's safety – Drinking water, beach access, and walkways
- Adventure
- Great food & entertainment

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Mr. & Mrs. Kelly were:

- Aruba's year-round sunny weather
- Aruba's delicious variety of foods
- Aruba's warm & friendly people
- Aruba's nice sandy beaches and picturesque sunsets
- Aruba's cleanliness ☐

Aruba Tourism Authority honored a loyal visitor at Casa Del Mar Beach Resort



The Aruba Tourism Authority recently had the great pleasure to recognize a Distinguished Visitor of Aruba. This visitor was respectively honored with a certificate acknowledging his years of visits, loyalty, and love to the island of Aruba.

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- Emerald Ambassador (35>years consecutively visiting Aruba)

The honoree was: Distinguished Visitor of Aruba Tyler Braden from Wisconsin, United States.

Young boy Tyler has been visiting the island with his family since he was only 6 weeks old, and today we mark his 10th consecutive visit to Aruba!

It is extremely pleasant to witness how families all gather together and bring their kids, and in some cases, grandchildren along so they can see why their families fell in love with Aruba in the first place and still yearn to visit the island after all these years.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and staff members of the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort bestowed the Distinguished Visitor Certification to the honoree, presented him with gifts, and also expressed gratitude to his family for bringing young Tyler along with them to Aruba since he was a baby for so many consecutive years.

Top reasons for returning to Aruba, provided by Tyler were:

- Ocean & sunshine
- The iguanas all around the Casa Del Mar Beach Resort
- The delicious mudslides
- Family fun
- Being able to build sandcastles on the beach ☐

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The Ostrich Farm

Matividiri – One of the most entertaining vacation activities is a visit to the Ostrich Farm, a popular stopover on most island jeep tours.

Locals and visitors enjoy the guided ostrich tour at the farm and features a well-stocked locally crafted and produced Art Boutique. The highlight of the visit is always the fun interaction with the resident ostriches and emus, including a trip to the incubators and the bird kindergarten, housing baby ostriches, baby emus, chicken and ducks, and even a land turtle!

It was a National Geographic moment when on cue Mr. Ostrich flapped his wings excitedly and poked around the ground with his bill, triggering Mrs. Ostrich who ran around in circles, flapped



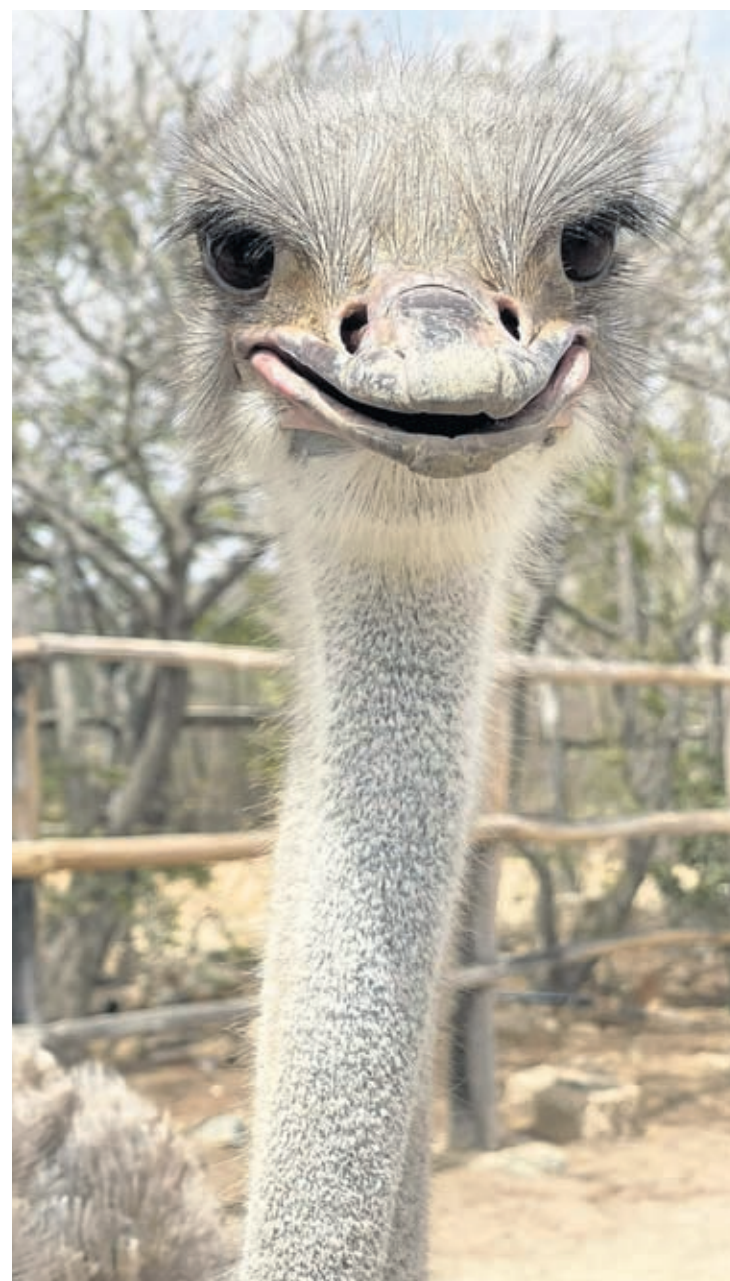
her wings and also poked around, before collapsing on the ground in a heap of feathers, allowing him to mount her, shaking, winding and spiraling his head in all direction!

Mr. Ostrich concluded his unexpected performance with a loud honking, his eyes rolling, then got up in a huff to nonchalantly strut away, leaving his wife and the scrutiny of our cameras.

It was a surprise reality TV moment, and not usually included in the regular program. Feeding the Ostriches is however always on the program, and they are eternally hungry, and fun!

Tours are available daily every half hour from 10– 3pm. No reservations needed for small groups. □

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Chabad of Aruba Welcomes Aruba's local and visitors Jews to Community Passover Seder Recalling Exodus From Egypt

Record Crowd Expected Amid Year of Hakhel — Gathering at Chabad's Passover Celebration



Palm Beach, Aruba— As Passover approaches this year, Chabad of Aruba is preparing to host community-wide Passover Seders—the festive ritual-filled dinner on the first two nights of the holiday—on April 5 and 6.

Passover is one most observed Jewish holiday, and

traditionally begins with The Seder which is usually celebrated with extended family and friends. To meet the needs of those looking for a place to observe this tradition Chabad Aruba welcomes all Aruba's local and visitors Jewish people to join Passover Seders at Chabad.

The Seders take participants through the story of the miraculous liberation of the Jewish people from bondage in ancient Egypt and shares the relevance and beauty of the age-old festival in the modern world. Included in the Seders will be A delicious 4 course dinner paired with a variety of fine imported wines and handmade round "Shmurah" Matzah].

"This year, as we sit down to our Seder, we will be ensuring that everyone who wishes to celebrate Passover can do so," said Rabbi Ahron Blasberg, who directs Chabad of Aruba. "Our goal is to lower the barriers to Jewish engagement and ensure everyone feels welcome and included, and has the opportunities and resources

they need to celebrate the holiday."

In 1954, the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, the most influential rabbi in modern history, launched the Shmurah Matzah initiative as part of an effort to create awareness and promote observance of Passover. In keeping with his vision, an estimated four million hand-baked Shmurah Matzah will be distributed by the Chabad-Lubavitch movement this year.

This year's Passover seders carry added significance as Jewish communities worldwide celebrate the Year of Hakhel or "Gathering," marked with Jewish gatherings focused on unity, Torah learning and practice. The marking of

this special occasion is why Chabad of Aruba is expecting record crowds at its seders and why there is additional focus on ensuring everyone in Aruba's Jewish community feels comfortable and welcome to participate.

All are welcome to join the community seder, regardless of Jewish affiliation or background. Reservations can be made online at www.JewishAruba.com/passover

What: Passover Seder
Where: Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino
When: Wednesday 7:30pm
RSVP: Jewisharuba.com/Passover

Photo: Rabbi Ahron and Chaya Blasberg welcoming the guests at last year Passover dinner. □

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First International Zero Waste Day

The United Nations General Assembly on December 14, 2022, recognized the importance of zero-waste initiatives and proclaimed March 30 as International Zero Waste Day, which we observed for the first time in 2023.

The Department of Nature and Environment DNM has the task of informing the community about subjects that affect our environment and nature. The DNM focuses on promoting a pattern of sustainable and circular production and consumption that contribute to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

Globally waste production is accelerating, and if we do not act it will get out of control. What is waste? Waste is everything put out of circulation due to no longer being needed. The waste sector contributes to three planetary crises: climate change, biodiversity/nature loss, and pollution.

We produce 2.24 billion tons of solid waste yearly, which only 55% is managed or controlled. We discard about 931 million tons of food waste, and 14 million tons of plastic waste enter the marine ecosystem or water streams yearly. If this tendency is not stopped now, by 2050, humans will produce around 4 billion tons of waste per year.

The mindset and initiatives for zero waste are to prevent and minimize its quantity but also help re-

lieve some of the planetary crisis by protecting the environment, providing food safety, improving human health, and increasing well-being. The initiatives for zero waste addresses responsible production and the use of products that fit in a circular system. It means the reuse and restoration of resources to the maximum to minimize air, soil, and water pollution. Reaching zero waste requires action at all levels. Products should be designed to be durable and produced sustainably to limit waste and pollution. Consumers can change their patterns and habits for re-using and repairing products more to stretch their lifespan before throwing them away.

The efforts of the Government, the community, industry, and all stakeholders recognize the potential for initiatives for zero waste.

We must reinforce waste management and improve production processes while encouraging the financing of initiatives and creating policies for a circular economy.

In Aruba, we can think of financing companies that focus on repairing and extending the life of products. Often products are repairable, and their components are also reusable.

In connection with waste management, the Government of Aruba introduced a waste stream system af-

ter the landfill closing at Parkietenbos in January 2023. More information is available at www.trashtocash.com.

The efforts of the DNM are to achieve SDG12, which includes the support of initiatives like Plastic Beach Party, Arubalife Organics, Zero Waste Company Aruba, Arupro, and many others.

We are merely starting the long journey to reach zero waste. Only with our ac-



tions and determination, SDG12 and zero waste, we will accomplish it. For more information about info@dn-maruba.org.

beauty
& THE
BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **John, Aracelis from New Jersey/Florida, U.S.A.** The trio had just met and was seen enjoying the sandy beaches near Divi phoenix. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover! **This segment is sponsored by Alhambra Casino and Shops.**





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Etnia Nativa is close to high rise Hotels



Small Island destination

Episode CC - 200

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what Etnia Nativa advocates for as its own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Through Island-Insight, we share awareness, educate, and safeguard native heritage, and we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay. During this episode, we want to share with you a growing concern that is affecting permanent residents of our still paradisiacal "...beloved rock" (see episode 153)

We all know that tourism brings both benefits and costs for local residents and that the sociodemographic and economic characteristics of the local population influence—positively or negatively—the attitude of the host toward the guest.

We at Etnia Nativa, as an entity dedicated to the conservation of the island's heritage, see the constant increase in the number of visitors as going out of hand, and we emphasize that Aruba cannot and should not be subjected to more pressure than it can handle since every coin has two sides.

The daily concerns of our permanent residents as well as the complaints of our repeat guests show us that "tourismophobia" is gaining strength, a phenomenon that has its "unfortunate root" in the deficient planning of different governments over the last 40 years, during which they have not taken into account the preferences or local attitudes as well as the size, carrying capacity, or how to handle all the garbage and waste water the touristic industry produces.

We are not "anti-tourism", but today our tiny island is advancing through the "fourth step" proclaimed by George V. Doxey: by being a perfect study case example of "the antagonism, with tourism as the cause of the problem". George V. Doxey was a socio-economist who, in 1975, described how legislators and planners need a monitor to gauge feelings of irritation among residents.

The so-called Doxey Irritation Index, or "Irridex", is a concept that suggests that as the number of visitors to a certain destination increases, residents go through a sequence of emotions and reactions. Doxey identified four main stages in the interrelationship between the host community and the guest, noting that the first is the "euphoria" with which visitors are received, which



we refer to in our episode 120 as "In the beginning." The second stage is the apathy represented by the indifference towards the visitors when their presence is no longer a novelty but something common, and a nuisance arrives that begins to grow among the locals to the point of seeing tourists as invaders, culminating in "antagonism".

Actually, according to Irridex, "Aruba as a tourist destination is immersed in the last two stages of antagonism and surrender, which are part of the current phenomenon of tourism phobia," resulting in a rejection of the effects of excessive tourism. Aruba is stretching its carrying capacity with overflow and negatively compromising its environmental resources and native species, as well as generating discomfort and rejection among residents due to the arrival of visitors.

From the aforementioned "touristification" that is currently manifesting on our island, we can deduce that it "displaces" the local resident and shapes a life-

style that only tourists can afford. This impacts the commercial and social core of specific places, such as the Noord area and coastal area of Savaneta, where "middle class" urban residential spaces become Airbnb facilities, stressing our residents with loud parties at night, flooded septic tanks, overflowing garbage bins, or dust blowing zooming caravans of off-road vehicles, which easily could be part of a Mad Max movie, running with no consideration to our fragile ecosystem. As concerned residents, we advocate for conscious and responsible tourism.

If you're intrigued by Aruba's native lifestyle and its cultural heritage do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the exclusive visitors of Etnia Nativa, a private museum/home where you will be able to touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic as well as archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items of the island's bygone era. □



Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, acclaimed newspapers columnist, artist craftsman, and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. Etnia Nativa is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

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Cornelia Marchena:

“Sports help me realize and understand that everything has to be in balance so I can do everything as best as I can”

(Oranjestad)—Genevreda Cornelia Marchena is an 18-year-old young woman who has participated in artistic gymnastics from a very young age. She sat down with our reporter and shared her athletic trajectory and how this has helped her in different aspects of her life.

Genevreda—better known as Cornelia among her loved ones—shared that her childhood was filled with experiences that has helped her transform into a disciplined, dedicated, independent and hard-working young woman. She is a person who does her absolute best in everything she does, and is always willing to go the extra mile if it means she will achieve something in her life.

Cornelia started her athletic career in artistic gymnastics when she was in



primary school: “A lot of my friends at the time were all doing gymnastics, and I slowly started to become really interested as well. One day I went to go take a lesson and since then I didn’t stop going. Gymnastics really became the sport for me,” she explained.

She also shared that her biggest motivation to keep

improving in gymnastics is herself, because she has always been someone that likes to challenge herself and that loves to experience new things.

Cornelia participated in different competitions, both on national and international level, and this has helped her in different areas of her life: “These competitions really expanded my knowledge on not just gymnastics, but also on the different countries and cultures I get to see and experience, like The U.S, Cali in Colombia and Costa Rica,” she expressed.

Many use sports as a vehicle to keep growing and

to improve in personal aspects. Cornelia told our reporter that sports have especially helped her become more conscious about her health and education. She indicated that her sport motivates her to work hard in school and in gymnastics so that she can achieve many things: “It helped me realize and understand that everything has to be in balance so that I can do everything as best I can.”

Cornelia is currently also an artistic gymnastics trainer. She shared that teaching is very different from competing, but that there are still some overlap between the two. She sees teaching

as an opportunity to help future athletes, using their own experience as athletes who have already competed in various tournaments. “This way, I can share my first-hand experience and help the children. At the end of the day, this makes me feel as proud and satisfied as when I win or compete,” she stated.

Apart from being active in the sport of artistic gymnastics, Cornelia also forms part of a dance group, which is something different for her: “I started dancing because a neighbor of mine is a dancer in the same group. I tried it out and loved it very much,” she stated. □



Prohibited by law: leaving the island with seashells, white sand or corals

(Oranjestad)—Often times, the customs department at the airport intercepts many tourists leaving the island with seashells, white sand and/or corals as souvenirs.

Conforming to the international treaty of CITES and our local law which protects our Flora & Fauna, it is absolutely prohibited to take any seashell, sand and coral outside of Aruba. This is to protect our environment. The high number of seashells, coral and amount of sand confiscated is very strange and it is suspected that our own locals are the ones selling these to the tourists, which is unacceptable.

Upon confiscation at the airport, you can also face a fine that they have to pay before leaving. This is surely not a pleasant experience for the tourist. This also leads to a negative reaction which can put our tourism in a negative light.

Though we love to accommodate our visitors, let’s all give nature the respect it deserves by protecting our environment. Stop collecting seashells, white sand and corals from our shores and stop buying or accepting these from local sellers or companies.

We want our future generations and visitors to enjoy the beauty of our beaches, shells and corals in a sustainable way, without destroying or disrupting the Aruban ecosystem. Help us protect what is ours! □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

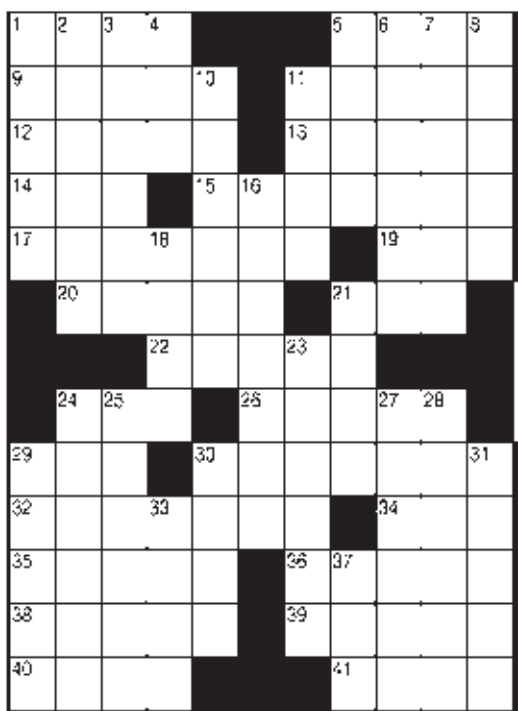
- ACROSS**
- 36 Wipe away
 - 1 Mass unit
 - 5 NYC cultural attraction
 - 9 Dance party attendee
 - 11 Lock setting
 - 12 "Skyfall" singer
 - 13 Houston player
 - 14 Polite address
 - 15 Fire
 - 17 Quarter-backs, at times
 - 19 Homer's bartending pal
 - 20 Inclines
 - 21 Kingsley or Affleck
 - 22 Canyon of comics
 - 24 Sit-up targets
 - 26 Comfy spots
 - 29 Hotel amenity
 - 30 City north of Newark
 - 32 Whole heaps
 - 34 Sea, to Simone
 - 35 Massage targets

DOWN

- 1 Under-stand
- 2 Tire type
- 3 Reluctant
- 4 Singer
- 5 Church event
- 6 Punctual
- 7 Strand
- 8 Without aid
- 10 Advice to sinners
- 11 One of the Mamas and the Papas
- 16 Weapons store
- 18 Pert talk
- 21 Harry's wife
- 23 Boat
- 24 Cochise's people
- 25 Big parties
- 27 Tex-Mex treat
- 28 Midday break
- 29 Twitch
- 30 Mosquito or gnat
- 31 Wave's top
- 33 Takes in
- 37 Crater part



Yesterday's answer



AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-5 CRYPTOQUOTE

C BGIJ UWPPGIJ KJLWYPJ TGV

QJ CN CP W LVZ WHWCXPN

CXRCTTJVJXLJ, W LVZ TGV

LGQUWPPCGX. — JBCJ ECJPIB

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: WHAT YOU SEE BEFORE YOU. MY FRIEND, IS THE RESULT OF A LIFETIME OF CHOCOLATE. KATHARINE IFFBURN



Chevrolet shows off their Chevrolet Bolt at the North American International Auto Show on Jan. 9, 2017, in Detroit.

Associated Press

GM passes Ford to take No. 2 spot in EV sales behind Tesla

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors rode strong first-quarter sales of the Chevrolet Bolt to bump cross-town rival Ford out of second place in the U.S. electric vehicle sales race. But GM's EV sales of 20,670 were still far below those of industry leader Tesla, which delivered more than 161,000 vehicles in the U.S. from January to March, according to estimates from Motorintelligence.com. Ford sold only 10,866 EVs during the quarter, but the company said that's largely because it had to stop making the top-selling Mustang Mach-E electric SUV while it retooled a factory in Mexico to increase production. Spokesman Said Deep said the company didn't build Mach-Es for seven weeks during the quarter, cutting into sales. Also, Ford was forced to stop making the F-150 Lightning electric pickup in February after a battery caught fire during a pre-delivery quality check. The problem was fixed and production resumed March 13. Still, Ford's EV sales rose 41% above last year's first quarter, the company said Tuesday. During the first quarter, GM delivered 19,700 of its top-selling EV, the Chevrolet Bolt hatchback and utility vehicle. □

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Women run the fictional world of ABC's 'General Hospital'

By **ALICIA RANCILIO**
Associated Press

As "General Hospital" marks its 60th anniversary, much remains the same for the longest-running scripted series in production in the United States. A hospital is still the backdrop for the soap opera, many of the veteran characters remain, the wealthy Quatermaine family looms large and the stories are about love, mystery and adventure.

But in a shift, many of the most powerful residents of Port Charles are women.

Genie Francis' legacy character Laura Collins, whose 1981 wedding to Luke Spencer drew 30 million viewers and is still the highest-rated soap opera episode in US history, is now the mayor of Port Charles. The police commissioner is a woman (played by Tanisha Harper), and the chief of staff at General Hospital is also a woman (played by Cassandra James.)

Kristina Wagner, a longtime cast member who plays Felicia Scorpio, first joined "General Hospital" in 1984 as a literal princess and romantic interest for Frisco Jones (Jack Wagner), forming a soap supercouple. While agent Frisco was out chasing bad guys, Felicia would wait in Port Charles. But now, Felicia long divorced from Frisco takes down villains herself and often teams up with Finola



This image released by ABC shows Genie Francis, center left, and Tanisha Harper in a scene from "General Hospital." (Troy Harvey/ABC via AP)

Hughes' Anna Devane to solve mysteries.

"I'm really proud to say that the show now feels very woman-centric," said Wagner. "Most of the stories revolve around women more than they ever have. We've changed with the times and that's a real perk. That's what makes me keep coming back."

Laura Wright, who plays Carly Spencer, has acted in three different soap operas, and says it used to be common for each soap to have one woman who was the standout, strong female

lead.

"You go back and you had Kim Zimmer on 'Guiding Light,' who played Reva Shayne. Erika Slezak playing Viki ('One Life to Live'), Susan Lucci playing Erica on 'All My Children.' You had some strong women, but you had like, one. Now we see so many," she said. Eden McCoy who plays Carly's daughter, Josslyn Jacks, has grown into a fiercely independent woman in her own right. She doesn't ask for a man's help easily and has no problem standing up for herself. She

even tells her love interest, Dex (Evan Hofer) that he can't dictate where they stand.

"It's like this wall went up between us and you have to protect little old me from big bad you," Josslyn said to Dex in a scene. "I call BS on that. I make my own decisions. I know the risks I'm taking. If you don't want me, just say that."

McCoy says the characters stand on their own.

"They're good enough characters on their own, and they don't need men surrounding them. If men

surround them, then that's awesome and great, but they don't need it," said McCoy. "We're not arm candy. We have things to bring to the table."

Offscreen, the actors also make an important impact. Tabyana Ali, who plays Trina Robinson, is part of a beloved bi-racial couple on the series. Last week, fans purchased a billboard in New York's Times Square to play a video montage devoted to the pairing of Trina and Spencer Casadine (Nicholas Chavez) known to fans as Sprina.

Ali admits to being surprised by how much the relationship meant to viewers, particularly those who could relate personally. "I didn't realize that the people that are in interracial relationships, this means a lot for them. They feel very seen," she said. "I'm honored to be part of it."

Cynthia Watros, who plays Nina Reeves, the editor of a high-fashion magazine and co-owner of a hotel (soap characters juggle their time well), says even her male co-stars have noticed the shift.

"We've had some conversations with some of the guys on the show who've been here for a while. And it has shifted a lot (to) women commanding the show," said Watros. "I give a lot of credit to (executive producer) Frank (Valentini)

and the writers for allowing this show to be so women driven."

The women also feel a strong kinship with one another behind-the-scenes. Rebecca Herbst, who plays Elizabeth Baldwin, joined the show as a teen in the '90s and says the "GH" set is truly another home. She counts Francis, Wright, Jane Elliot, Kelly Monaco and Kirsten Storms in her "friend circle."

"Sometimes it doesn't even feel like a job. When I get in my car, I'm just going to go see my second family, and I get to work and we all just kind of get to play together. □

Yiyun Li's 'The Book of Goose' wins PEN/Faulkner award

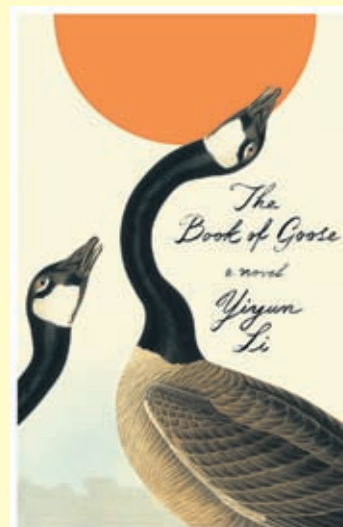
NEW YORK (AP) — Yiyun Li's novel "The Book of Goose," the story of two mischievous teenage girls in post-World War II France and their improbable literary success, has won the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction. Li will receive \$15,000 for the PEN/Faulkner, which in previous years has been given to Philip Roth, Ann Patchett and Deesha Philyaw, among others. She has published both novels and story collections and

received numerous other prizes, including the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story, presented to her last December.

On Tuesday, PEN/Faulkner judges praised her for writing "a dazzling, conventions-defying, nuanced novel." "It's a tale of a complicated friendship, of two girls bending toward and away from each other. The prose is singular; the central characters, Agnès

and Fabienne, haunted us with their radical ingenuity and bold, unruly ambitions. We kept finding that we wanted to press this book on others," the judges' statement reads.

The other PEN/Faulkner finalists Jonathan Escoffery, for "If I Survive You"; Kathryn Harlan, for "Fruiting Bodies"; Dionne Irving, for "The Islands"; and Laura Warrell, for "Sweet, Soft, Plenty Rhythm" will each be awarded \$5,000. □



This cover image released by FSG shows "The Book of Goose" by Yiyun Li, winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award for fiction.

Associated Press

Handful of NHL contenders thrive following major injuries

By STEPHEN WHYNO
AP Hockey Writer

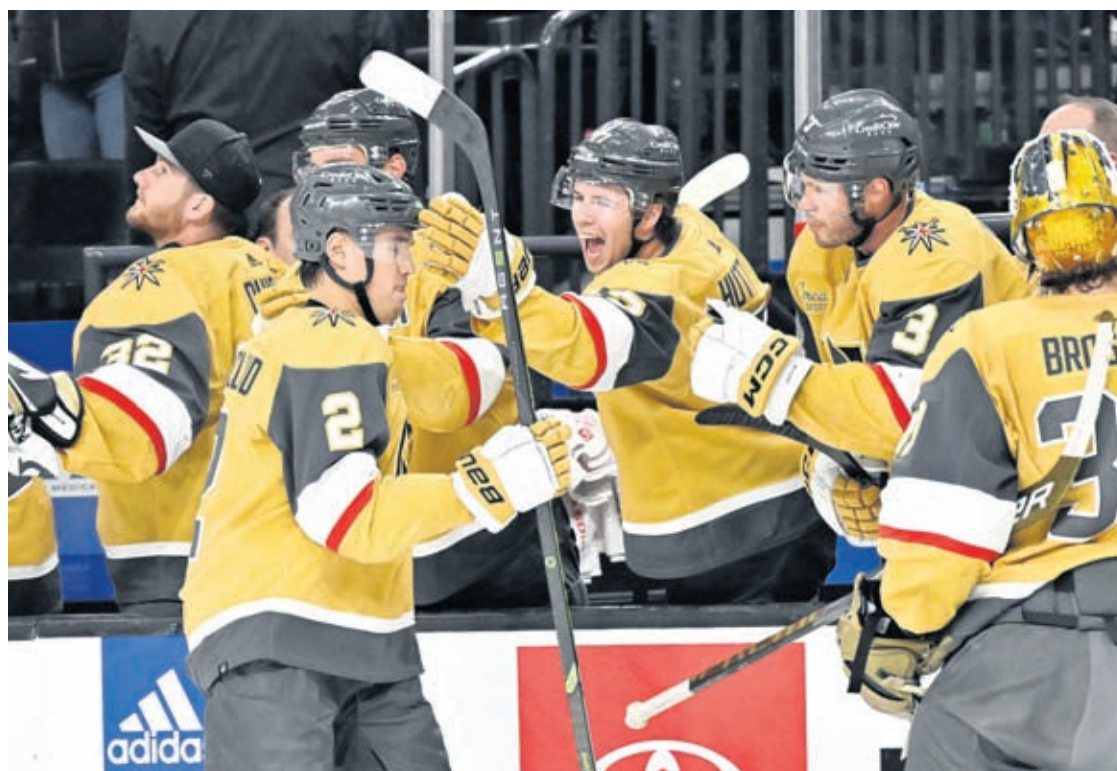
Mark Stone missing two months and counting after back surgery threatened to sink the Vegas Golden Knights. Instead, they've risen to the top of the Western Conference.

Losing Kirill Kaprizov for several weeks looked like a big blow to the Minnesota Wild. They've since moved into first place in the Central Division.

Similarly, in the East, the New York Islanders have more than compensated for the absence of Mathew Barzal and the Carolina Hurricanes have found their game since Andrei Svechnikov was ruled out for the remainder of the season with a torn ACL.

With the NHL playoffs on the horizon, those four contenders have not only survived but thrived after losing a star player to injury. They've done it thanks to a combination of savvy trade deadline acquisitions, good coaching and other players taking advantage of bigger opportunities.

"That's what makes hockey so great is teams have lost top players and continued to go about their jobs and win hockey games," Carolina general manager Don Waddell said. "Our sport's different than maybe some



Vegas Golden Knights defenseman Zach Whitecloud (2) celebrates with the defenseman Ben Hutton (17) and the bench after scoring against the Minnesota Wild during the first period of an NHL hockey game Saturday, April 1, 2023, in Las Vegas.

Associated Press

other sports. We emphasize it's a team game, it's a team sport and there's 20 other guys that are still going to try to get the job done."

Minnesota, Vegas, Carolina and New York have combined to go 44-22-11 since each team's significant injury.

In the Wild's case, the emergence of young winger Matt Boldy and strong goaltending have made up for not having Kaprizov,

by far their leader in goals and assists and a legitimate MVP candidate.

Boldy has 13 goals and five assists for 18 points in 12 games since Kaprizov went down.

"It's a good time for him to really get that hot and get those goals for us," forward Joel Eriksson Ek said.

Vegas has been used to injuries in recent years, including several to goalies this season that have tested the organization's depth.

It's impossible to replace Stone, a strong defensive winger who was on track for his eighth 20-goal season, but the Golden Knights used the All-Star break and their annual father's road trip to reset mentally and physically without him. They have won 20 of 33 games since.

"It was really good for us," first-year coach Bruce Cassidy said. "Timing was perfect. Some guys got a breather that were a little

banged up as well. ... In general, it was a great time for us and it showed coming out of it."

Before the break, the Islanders made a move that ultimately ensured that Barzal getting injured wouldn't doom their chances of getting back in the playoffs. Veteran GM Lou Lamoriello pounced early by getting center Bo Horvat in a trade with Vancouver, and the 30-goal scorer has fit in just about as well as anyone could have expected.

Of course, there aren't many teams like the Islanders, who pushed the then-defending champion Tampa Bay Lightning to seven games in the Eastern Conference final in 2021 after losing Lee to a major knee injury.

If anyone's built to withstand the loss of a top player, it's New York, thanks to depth down the middle and smart decisions all over the ice.

"We got four good centermen still. That helps," veteran forward Cal Clutterbuck said. "I think just generally the style of game that we play and the structure that we play with allows us to get through situations like that. It's just kind of a credit to the guys who have been in and the way that they've been following the plan." □

Retired boxer Amir Khan gets 2-year ban for doping

LONDON (AP) — Retired British boxer Amir Khan has been banned from all sports for two years after testing positive for a prohibited substance following what proved to be the last fight of his career.

Khan, a former light-welterweight world champion and Olympic silver-medalist, returned a positive result for anabolic agent ostarine after his loss to Kell Brook in Manchester in February 2022, UK Anti-Doping said Tuesday.

Ostarine is a selective androgen receptor modulator that can help muscle

growth and, according to UKAD, is designed to have similar effects to testosterone. Khan, who announced his retirement three months after the fight, accepted a violation of anti-doping rules but said he had not intentionally ingested the substance. That was accepted by an independent panel following a hearing in January.

His ban will expire on April 5, 2024. Reacting to the announcement, Khan speaking in London told Sky News he has "never cheated in my life."

"You can see by my perfor-

mance against Kell Brook lost the fight. If I went in there and knocked Kell Brook out it's different," he said.

The 36-year-old Khan said he found it strange he has been banned now that he is retired from boxing.

"If they ban me, they ban me," he said. "I am retired anyway."

One of the best British boxers of his era, Khan retired with a record of 34-6, though the independent panel has disqualified his result from the fight against Brook.

It's a sad final entry to a



British boxer Amir Khan, right, reacts after losing the Welterweight Contest fight against Kell Brook at the AO Arena, Manchester, England, on Feb. 19, 2022.

Associated Press

career that started with a gold medal at the 2003 Junior Olympics and a silver at the Athens Olympics in 2004, aged just 17. Khan won the WBA light-

welterweight title with victory over Andreas Kotelnik in Manchester in July 2009, before unifying the WBA and IBF titles with a win over Zab Judah in 2011. □

LIV has more to lose than it does to gain at Masters

By **DOUG FERGUSON**

AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — The Masters should be above all the clamor caused by 18 players from LIV Golf and this feeling of “us versus them” in the first major championship of the year. But just wait until names and numbers start to fill the white scoreboards around Augusta National on Thursday. Try to see only names without considering their allegiance.

No one wants to talk about it. That doesn’t mean no one is thinking about it. The Masters is a real chance for LIV Golf because with few exceptions, its members have not mixed it up with anyone but themselves over the last nine months while piling up generational wealth provided by Saudi Arabia’s sovereign wealth fund.

And now they’re all in the same arena. It’s not about relationships on the range, in the locker room at the Masters Club dinner — it’s about performance.

“I think it’s just important for LIV guys to be up there because I think we need to be up there,” said Cameron Smith, still known more as the “champion golfer of the year” from St. Andrews than team captain of LIV’s Rippers.



Dustin Johnson, Phil Mickelson, and Harold Varner III, walks in the 11th fairway during a practice for the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club, Tuesday, April 4, 2023, in Augusta, Ga.

“I think there’s a lot of chatter about: ‘These guys don’t play real golf. These guys don’t play real golf courses.’ For sure, I’ll be the first one to say the fields aren’t as strong,” Smith said. “But we’ve still got a lot of guys up there that can play some really serious golf.”

Dustin Johnson in a green jacket on Sunday? That would surprise no one.

Johnson has been No. 1 in the world longer than any player since Tiger Woods, and everyone knows his current world ranking of

No. 69 requires an asterisk. He hasn’t played a tournament with ranking points since he tied for sixth in the British Open.

Brooks Koepka is coming off a victory last week in LIV Golf-Orlando and is starting to regain that swagger that made him “Big Game Brooks.” He’s won four of his last 20 majors. Koepka was so excited about his prospects after winning Sunday that he said, “It gives me chills thinking of the capabilities of what I can do when I’m healthy.”

All this give Greg Norman chills just thinking about it. Norman, the CEO and commissioner of the Saudi-funded league, sounds as though he would consider a LIV player winning the Masters even sweeter than if the Shark had won it himself, which he famously never did.

“I would be the happiest man in the world, the first to ring and congratulate and pay for what would be an incredible party,” Norman told The Daily Telegraph last week in Florida.

Associated Press

“They’ve said that if one of them wins, then the other 17 will hang around and be there to congratulate him around the 18th green,” Norman said. “Could you imagine what a scene that would be, all these players hugging the winner? You only see things like that in the Ryder Cup, although it’s happening in our events more and more.”

The last such scene was when Woods won in 2019, and so many past champions waited in their green jackets near the scoring room. Yeah, this would be different. With the Masters on the horizon, LIV Golf offered a clever reminder of the players it has on its 48-man roster with interviews and images of Phil Mickelson putting the green jacket on Charl Schwartzel, who a year later presented it to Bubba Watson. And then there was Sergio Garcia passing along the green jacket to Patrick Reed.

But it also raised questions about where these guys are now. Mickelson hasn’t made a cut against a full field on the PGA Tour since September 2021. Since joining LIV, he has finished in the bottom half of the 48-man fields eight out of his 10 tournaments. Watson is coming up on five years without a win. □

Nadal, Alcaraz pull out of clay-court Monte Carlo Masters

MONACO (AP) — Rafael Nadal pulled out of the clay-court Monte Carlo

Masters on Tuesday, saying he is not yet able to compete at the highest level.



Rafael Nadal of Spain follows his shot to Andrey Rublev of Russia during their quarterfinal match of the Monte Carlo Tennis Masters tournament in Monaco, Friday, April 16, 2021.

Associated Press

The 22-time Grand Slam champion has been sidelined with a left hip flexor injury since the Australian Open. The Monte Carlo Masters begins on April 8.

“I will not be able to play in one of the most important tournaments of my career, Monte Carlo,” Nadal wrote on Twitter. “I am not yet in conditions to play with the maximum guarantees and I continue my preparation process, hoping to be back soon.”

Second-ranked Carlos Alcaraz and seventh-ranked Felix Auger-Aliassime also withdrew from the event. Alcaraz pulled out because of “physical discomfort” af-

ter his semifinal loss in Florida last week. The Spaniard had been so dominant recently, he hadn’t lost a set since February before that defeat.

“I have post-traumatic arthritis in my left hand and muscular discomfort in the spine that needs rest to prepare for everything that is to come,” the 19-year-old from Spain said.

Auger-Aliassime needs to rest his left knee. “I have been struggling with my left knee for the past few weeks and decided it was the smartest decision to take some time off so I’m able to fully heal and recover,” the 22-year-old Canadian

wrote on Instagram. Nadal has won the Monte Carlo tournament a record 11 times, including an Open Era record streak of eight consecutive titles from 2005-12. The 36-year-old Spaniard generally uses the event as a key part of his preparations for the French Open, which takes place May 28-June 11. Nadal has won 14 of his major titles on clay at Roland Garros, including last year while dealing with chronic pain in his left foot. In January, Nadal hurt his hip flexor during a second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald at the Australian Open. □